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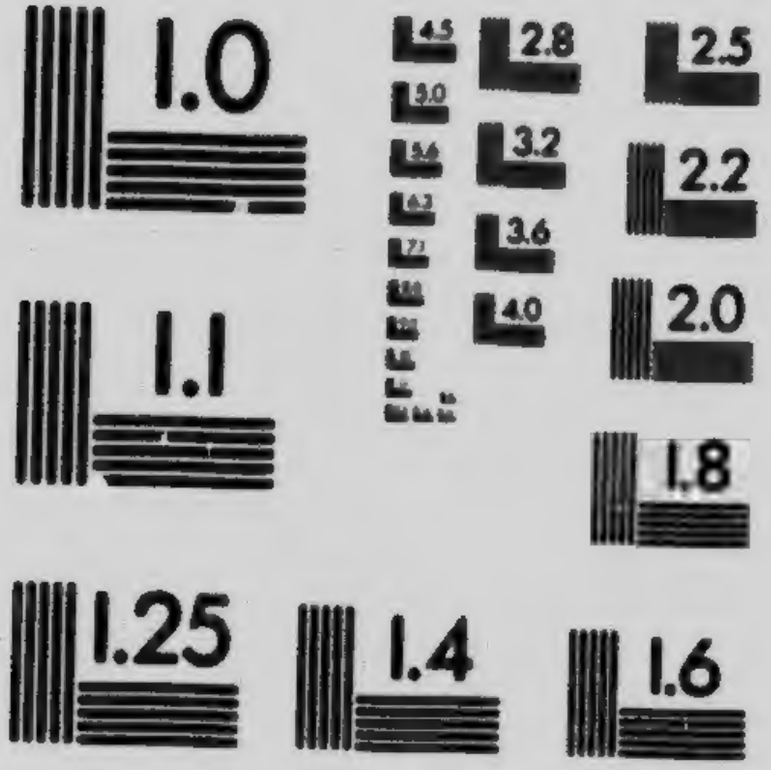

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FOR THE CHILDREN
BY THE CHILDREN
OF THE CHILDREN

GOLDEN JUBILEE

MAY DAY CELEBRATION

NEW WESTMINSTER
THE ROYAL CITY
MAY 1920.

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR
AND PROGRAMME

PREFACE

FOR half a century New Westminster has honored childhood above all else on one day of the year, in the merry month of May, holding a picturesque and unique ceremony—the crowning of the May Queen. It has been considered fitting that, for this Jubilee Year, there be published, in modest form, a record of the May Queens and descriptions of features of interest in connection with this cherished institution of the Royal City.

The appreciation of the citizens of New Westminster in the public spirit, the faithfulness to English traditions and the strong love for homeland customs which the pioneers of this city ever demonstrated, is expressed today in the heartiness with which all enter into the annual May Day Celebration and unite to perpetuate this joyous festival when the boys and girls, for a day, are transported, as it were, to a fairy land, and with all the pomp and circumstance of a regal ceremony, see crowned their choice of the fairest, loveliest maiden of all. With the hope that this booklet will serve to intensify this appreciation, if that could be, by linking up the present with the past, and stirring fond memories of bygone happy days for those who were boys and girls of yesterday, and that it will awaken in the boys and girls of today as strong a desire to yearly commemorate this May Day with honor to the city of their birth or adoption, as a day "For the Children, By the Children and of the Children," it is sent forth as a souvenir of the Jubilee May Day of 1920.

J. H. WATSON, Chairman — D. E. MacKENZIE, Secy-Treas.
VINCENT E. ANDREW, — THOMAS WIEDEMAN,
Publicity Committee.

May Queen Elect, 1920

MISS EVVA OWEN MacMASTER

Thirteen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald MacMaster, of Queensboro. A native daughter of Hamilton, Ont., and a pupil of the John Robson school, Miss MacMaster is known among her school friends as a maiden of sunny disposition, and one worthy of this great honor, that of being chosen Queen of the Royal City on the fiftieth anniversary of May Day crowning.

The May Queen's Speech

ROYAL SISTER: I have to thank you for your gracious words and for the assurance and hope they inspire on the continued welfare of my subjects, through this year of Jubilee. Within a stone's throw of the spot where the first of our line was crowned, I feel the same spirit of good-will and happiness which has pervaded these gala days since their inception.

I thank also those who have preceded me on the throne for gracing the occasion with their presence.

I acknowledge also the implied homage of those composing our retinue; and, the plaudits of the assembled populace. I feel assured of the fealty and love of you all. I hope that when in my turn I pass on the crown and sceptre, it will be done as gracefully as they were bestowed on me and that I shall have equally merited the acclaims of a happy people.

And now, in honor of this, my ascession, I proclaim this a high holiday and offer you all the freedom of the Royal City, hoping that nothing will mar the pleasures of this joyous occasion.

Queen of the May, 1919-20

MISS EVELINE BROOKS

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brooks, 1209 Fifth Avenue, who on Friday will hand over the reins of office to Queen-elect Evva MacMaster. Miss Brooks at the time of her election as May Queen was a pupil of the Lord Lister school.

Ex-Queen Eveline's Speech

CITIZENS of the Realm of the May Queen! Greeting:

You are gathered today according to our ancient custom to witness the coronation of her who shall reign over you for the ensuing year, and to participate in the attendant festivities. The preparations are more than usually elaborate, as this marks the fiftieth anniversary, the Golden Jubilee, of this institution in the Royal City.

I am pleased to see here today, so many who were privileged to be present at that first bright May Day half a century ago in the then young city of Queensboro. It is a pleasing coincidence that the section of the modern metropolis which perpetuates the ancient name should furnish its fairest daughter for your next Queen.

I am proud too, that among those present today are so many of my illustrious predecessors. We are united in extending to them the warmest of welcomes, the assurance of your affectionate esteem and the hope that they may long be spared to enjoy their peace in the lengthening line of past May Queens.

And the same cordial felicitations are extended to the many old citizens who were merely spectators of the annual pageantry.

It is our added pleasure to see also so goodly a representation of the Ancient and Honourable Hyacks, who for so many of the earlier years, furnished the Guard of Honor on these occasions and shouldered the responsibility of "carrying on" from year to year.

All these considerations enhance the pleasure I now have of formally abdicating by placing on your head, my chosen successor, the emblem of your high office.

(Ceremony of crowning)

Queen Evva, I salute you! I recommend to your generous consideration this fair kingdom. May you reign, as all your predecessors, in the hearts of a happy people."

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

May Day 1920

12.30 p.m.—May Queen, May Queen-elect, Maids of Honour, and 1870 participants, meet at Russell Hotel.

12.45 p.m.—School children meet on Library Square and Agnes street.

1.15 p.m.—Parade starts from Library Square via Sixth street and Columbia street to B.C.E.R. depot, thence along Columbia street, Leopold Place, Royal Avenue, Park Row to Queen's Park.

2.00 p.m.—Introduction by Chairman, Fire Chief J. H. Watson.
Oration by Master of Ceremonies, Mayor J. J. Johnston.
Ex-May Queen's speech and crowning of May Queen-elect.
General Salute by 47th Battalion Bugle Band.
Singing of National Anthem by massed children's choir.
May Queen's speech.
Chorus—"O, Canada."
The Maypole dances by school children.
Chorus—"Men of Harlech."
Folk dancing by school children.
Distribution of candy, starting with Bugle Call.
Sports—Younger children in oval, uniformed boys and girls in front of Women's Building.

5.00 p.m.—The Queen and her retinue depart for Russel Hotel accompanied by 47th Battalion band.

6.00 p.m.—Banquet at Russell Hotel to May Queen, ex-Queens and special guests. Distribution of gold medals commemorating the Golden Jubilee of May Day in the Royal City.

8.00 p.m.—Ball in Arena at Queen's Park. Grand March to be led by May Queen and Master of Ceremonies.
Children to dance until 10.30 p.m.
Adults from 10.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

A LINK WITH ENGLAND'S PAST

BY NOEL ROBINSON

IT is at once a singular and a happy cicumstance that the most notable May Day commemoration in the British Empire should take place in a city only cut from the virgin forest fifty or so years ago, a city situate six thousand miles from the Old Land where the beautiful custom originated.

The words "most notable" may suggest exaggeration. Yet their use is absolutely justifiable. England is the home of May Day celebrations and of hundreds of May Queens, and of as many delightful crowning ceremonies, both in villages and upon the outskirts of towns. But never—no, not even at Knutsford or in the garden city of Letchworth—has the present writer witnessed the crowning of the May Queen upon such a scale, or before so many thousands of spectators, as upon the half dozen occasions when he has had the good fortune—always in glorious sunshine—to witness the ceremony and the Maypole dancing at the Royal City of New Westminster.

A well known old Londoner, who has seen many commemorations in both countries, agrees with this judgment, though he states that he has seen the accompanying sports upon a greater scale in the Old Country. "But never," he adds, "have I seen the crowning of the Queen made at once such a pastoral and civic ceremony, and nowhere would it be possible to gather together so many ex-May Queens as will be the case in New Westminster.

May Day in England dates back many years and there are still Maypole streets and Maypole alleys in various places where once the Maypole raised itself and children danced upon the greensward.

Upon one occasion England had what has come down in history as the "Evil May Day." This occurred in the reign of Henry the Eighth, when the city of London was overrun by French people and the apprentice boys of London, believing that the French were too much in the popular eye, and disliking their foreign ways, brought about a riot.

The result was that 14 of the apprentices were executed and 400 were marched through the streets with nothing on but their shirts, and with their hands tied behind them and halters round their necks, to Westminster. The population was touched by the youth of the offenders and cries of "Mercy" arose. These reached the Royal ears and the King pardoned the apprentices.

Later on May Day was given over, to a large extent, to the milk-maids, who garlanded their pails with flowers and marched through the streets of London. Strange to say the chimney sweeps also made a festival of the day. In England a curious feature of our own time has been the fact that, led by several prominent ritualistic clergymen, a hint was taken from France, and the crowning of the Rose Queen has, to some extent, eclipsed the crowning of the May Queen.

Queen's Park, May Day, 1910.

A picture of the May Day celebration of 1910, showing the Maypol dancing in progress on the oval at Queen's Park. Real May Day weather prevailed on that day as witness the parasols scattered among the crowd of onlookers.

Which is a reminder that New Westminster can claim a lady prominent in artistic and literary circles, and who has recently taken a part in amateur theatricals, whose throat is adorned with a beautiful little ornament which she wore as a Rose Queen in England.

New Westminster never boasted a more charming May Queen than the first Royal little lady who presided over her destinies, Helen McColl. The writer only knew her years afterwards as Mrs. Scoular, an equally sweet faced lady, now, alas, gathered to the Great Majority—when he interviewed her for the story of that first crowning, a story which she told in a modest and happy way which he will always remember. There will be a few of the grand old-men and women in the crowds on Friday who will recall little Helen McColl as she looked that far away day and remember with pleasure the simple rural nature of that first crowning.

The Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery.

Photograph taken several years ago, showing the battery in action on Victoria Day. On the left is to be noticed the late Capt. Adolphus Peele while next to him is William Sutherland, an old time member of the battery. No. 4 is Alex. Adams; No. 5, the late Charles Ferrand; No. 7, ex-Mayor Thos. Ovens, the surviving member of the battery which was organized in 1872; No. 9, William Hancock.

Royal Engineers' Camp, Sapperton, where many May Day celebrations were held in the pioneer days of New Westminster.

Early History of Royal City

THE May Day Festival, which has been a cherished institution in New Westminster for fifty years, was transplanted direct from England and the fact that, of all British Columbia centres, except those that have adopted it in recent years, New Westminster has kept this festival so faithfully, points to the strong influence of the home land implanted here by the men of the Royal Engineers corps, who founded the community that is now New Westminster.

On the 17th of October, 1858, there sailed from England on board the clipper ship Thames City, a company of Royal Engineers under the command of Capt. H. R. Luard, R.E., the contingent consisting of 118 non-commissioned officers and men, 31 women and 34 children. After a tedious passage around Cape Horn, the party arrived at Esquimalt on April 12, 1859. At Esquimalt the party was joined by Colonel R. C. Moody, Capt. J. M. Grant, Capt. R. M. Parsons, Lieut. A. R. Lempriere and Lieut. H. S. Palmer, also Dr. Seddall as medical officer. They were immediately embarked on the Eliza Anderson and were sent forward to their future home—the camp of Queensborough, as New Westminster was then known, and from that date what is now a flourishing city and the centre of the agricultural district of the Fraser Valley owes its advancement.

On the arrival of the party, the camp, due to its change from New Langley, or Derby, was found to be incomplete and only a small portion of the site cleared. A number of the party found accommodation on board the Hudson Bay Company brigantine Recovery, which was lying at anchor opposite the camp site, the remainder going under canvas.

At the time, the only signs of human habitation were a crude jetty, a saloon conducted by T. J. Scott, late of Port Moody; a butcher shop conducted by the late Robert Dickenson; a grocery by W. J. Armstrong and a bakery by Philip Hicks.

The summer of 1858 found the Engineers busily engaged clearing the camp site, constructing barracks, married men's quarters, and a church (St. Mary's Anglican), while time was found to survey the city site. Parties were sent out on survey work, the most notable work being the first and most difficult section of the Yale-Cariboo waggon road and the Hope Mountain Trail. The Engineers also formed the gold escort from the Cariboo country. They built the first school house; they designed the first British Columbia Coat of Arms and the first postage stamp used in the colony; they built at their own expense, a reading room, library and theatre, in which many interesting entertainments were held during the winter months, as will be remembered by many old residents.

The name of Queensborough caused some dissatisfaction, and the matter was submitted to the late Queen Victoria, who named the city New Westminster.

Columbia Street, looking east from B. C. Electric Depot. —Russell's Sun

The detachment disbanded in October, 1863, after five years' service and all the officers and twenty-five or thirty of the men returned to England. Those who remained were given a free grant of 150 acres of land, and engaged in various occupations in the new colony.

For the facts in connection with the early history of New Westminster, we are indebted to His Honor, Judge F. W. Howay, who compiled in a very able manner, an account of the early happenings in British Columbia and which was delivered before the Arts, Historical and Scientific association of Vancouver on February 9th, 1909 and which was later put into book form.

THE LATE CAPT. ADOLPHUS PEELE

Second only to the late Col. J. T. Scott in the list of old-timers connected with New Westminster May Day festival is the late Capt. Adolphus Peele, a well-known resident of the Royal City, who passed to the great beyond on August 26th, 1916. Identified with the annual celebration from 1870 to 1915, no parade was considered complete during those years without Colonel Scott and Captain Peele being present, the latter to be found leading the parade.

One of Capt. Peele's outstanding characteristics was his adherence to old-time customs and institutions. He was a captain in the New Westminster Rifles, the first militia regiment of infantry in British Columbia. He was also a member of the Hyack Fire Brigade, and later of the Hyack Anvil Battery, which annually fires the Royal Salute of 21 "guns" on the Queen's birthday. He was also first secretary of the Royal Columbian Hospital.

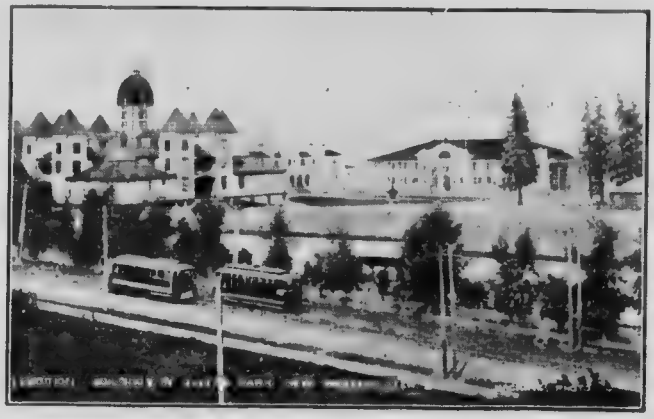
Born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1841, he came out to Victoria in 1862. Two of his sons, P. R. Peele and C. D. Peele, are connected with the May Day festival, being members of the committee.

The Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society of British Columbia

(By A. G. LYTLE)

GREAT undertakings often spring from small beginnings and the relevancy of this in respect to the R. A. & I. Society, lies in its applicability. In a building small enough to be completely lost in any one of the half dozen great structures at Queen's Park today, the Society which has done so much to foster agricultural and horticultural production in British Columbia, made its bow to the good people of New Westminster nearly half a century ago, on the present Library Square.

The aggregate in exhibits was not greater than one of the average district exhibits of today, and the exhibitors—pioneers of British Columbia in the finest sense of the word—attended under difficulties which would daunt the modern producer. But they came; that was the primal factor and from that modest adven-



ture, grew the great exhibitions of 1913-19, exhibitions which brought honest admiration from government officials and from breeders and stockmen on both sides of the international line, whose business it is to "follow the fairs" and to judge with impartiality.

It was the dauntless spirit of the pioneer of fifty years ago that made the R. A. & I. Society possible. That same fearless desire to achieve and to succeed and grow larger, is the very life blood of the society today.

It is community effort that builds all great public institutions.

The R. A. & I. has always stood for the greatest good to the greatest number.

It is no selfish organization kept alive to benefit the few at the expense of the many.

New Westminster and district residents ought to pause occasionally and in-

trospectively analyze the underlying factors which from year to year inspire the men at the head of the annual exhibitions, factors which impel them to keep the organization going strongly, despite careless and ill-directed criticisms which, from time to time, are launched in their direction.

Its directorate is carefully chosen year by year, with the view to being entirely representative of the Pacific outpost of a great Empire. These men are the society. They draft its effort each year and their work is done gratuitously except for the exhilaration which comes in the sense of a duty well done.

The executive is in exactly the same position, except that the work they do, by its volume, is more exacting and arduous, extending as it does, over a period of months. The president is compelled to give weeks, almost one could say months, of his time to the duties of the office, yet in all the years of the society, he has never sought indemnification, nor has it been offered. No man, perhaps, who has not filled the position can have a proper conception of the amount of detail involved.

There is one paid official. That is the manager-secretary. For months he is the hardest worked individual imaginable. Skeptics, have been heard to suggest, in that quiet unobtrusive way affected by modern skeptics, that the "job is a cinch."

Well, just follow D. E. a few weeks before the exhibition opens, or better still, O, Skeptical One, try to keep pace with him while the big fair is on. Truly it's an education in "speed-ology."

"The R. A. & I. Society," a civic commissioner of publicity remarked recently, "is the one great advertiser of the Royal City. I make that statement without qualification whatsoever. I can prove my contention:

"The annual exhibitions take place in the autumn. That means that every year, for weeks and months ahead, stories in anticipation are sent broadcast across Canada. The Provincial Exhibition is being held in New Westminster. If they said no more than that, it would bring to the attention of thousands of people, the fact that the Royal City is the agricultural hub of the province.

"How much is that worth as a genuine advertisement?

"Then thousands of prize lists are distributed, posters go up and down the country, all carrying the message that for one week at least, the very centre of production is at Queen's Park.

"Last year the Prince of Wales visited your fair. That was an honor accorded to only one other exhibition in the Dominion of Canada. H. R. H. opened the Toronto Exhibition and he opened yours. He came west in September but as early in the year as April, newspapers throughout the world were heralding his visit to the overseas dominions and they carried the significant fact months ahead that he was coming to New Westminster to see the agricultural and industrial wealth of the province."

So much for a publicity expert's opinion. It is merely given here for what it may be worth as the view of a neutral, but qualified, observer.

MAYPOLE DANCING EXP

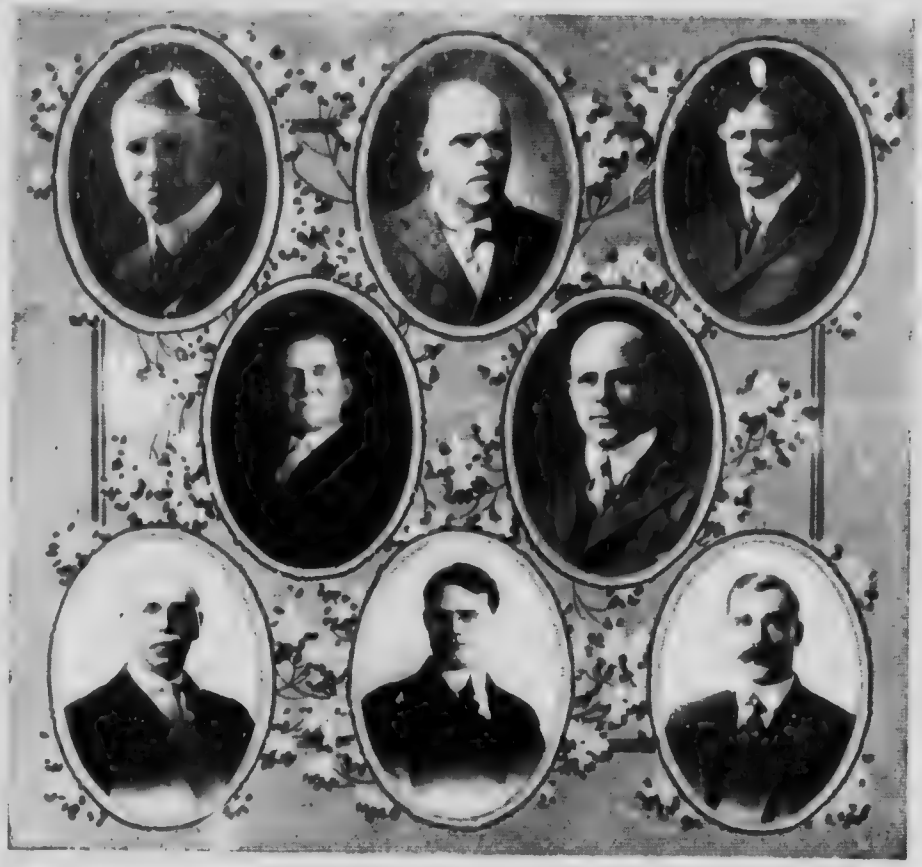
Miss Lillooet Green.

Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. B. Green, who was selected as one of the Maids of Honour to Queen-elect Evva. She is a student of the Howay-Robson school

G EXPRES ES THE VERY SPIRIT OF MAY DAY

Miss Millicent Meehan.

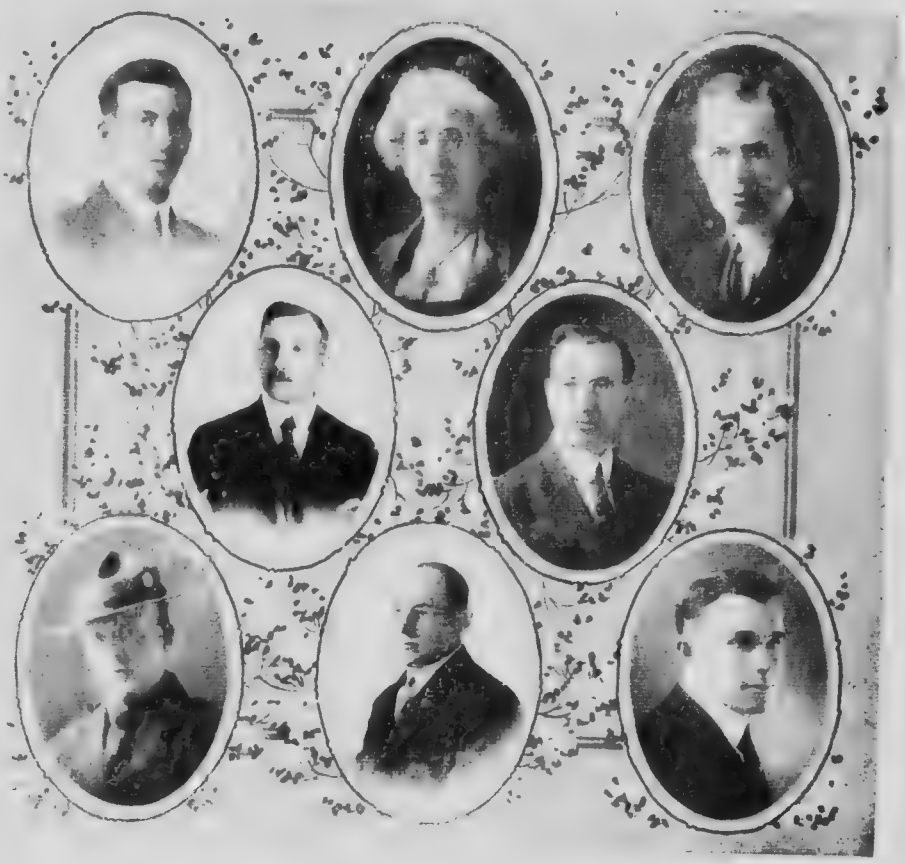
Daughter of Mrs. S. B. Simpson, who will partner Miss Green as Maid of Honour at the 1920 celebration. She is a [illegible] the Kelvin Lister school



1. C. D. PEELE, music.
2. J. J. CAMBRIDGE, ex-Queen committee.
3. E. MacKENZIE, secretary-treasurer.
4. FIRE CHIEF J. H. WATSON, chairman.
5. MAYOR J. J. JOHNSTON, master of ceremonies.
6. F. P. MAXWELL, throne.
7. A. G. BEATTY, ball.
8. THOS. WEIDEMAN, publicity.

May Queens, 1870-1920

1870—Miss Nellie McColl—Mrs. E. S. Scoular, (deceased).
1871—Miss Lizzie Irving—Mrs. E. J. Spencer, Portland, Ore.
1872—Miss Marion Bonson—Mrs. H. Hoy, New Westminster.
1873—Miss Marina Morey—Mrs. Insley Brown, California.
1874—Miss Janet Harvey—Mrs. Geo. Turnbull, New Westminster.
1875—Miss Mary Scott—Mrs. Robert Kelly, New Westminster.
1876—Miss M. A. Johnston—Mrs. C. Warwick (deceased).
1877—Miss Gertrude McBride—Mrs. W. Allison, Victoria.
1878—Interregnum.
1879—Miss Lena Eickhoff—Mrs. W. H. Keary, New Westminster.
1880—Miss Florence Hubbard.
1881—Miss Maude Williams—Mrs. C. A. Welsh, New Westminster.
1882—Miss Josie Eickhoff—Mrs. Leishman.
1883—Miss Maggie Rogers, (deceased)
1884—Miss Mamie Wise—Mrs. Mackintot, Revelstoke.
1885—Miss Annie Turner—Mrs. J. R. Grant, New Westminster.
1886—Miss Dollie Mead—Mrs. F. S. DeGrey, New Westminster.
1887—Miss May Douglas—Mrs. T. J. Lewis (deceased).
1888—Miss Helen Ross—Mrs. Walter Chamberlin, New Westminster.
1889—Miss Maud Hatherly—Mrs. William Gifford, New Westminster.
1890—Miss Masie McPhaden—Mrs. G. Wood, New Westmnister.
1891—Miss Emily Gardener—Mrs. W. L. Stark, Vancouver.
1892—Miss Gladys Townsend—Mrs. W. Turner, England.
1893—Miss Beryl Briggs—Mrs. W. F. Edmonds (deceased).
1894—Miss Gertrude Moncrief—Mrs. W. Cannon, Vancouver.
1895—Miss Dorothy Thompson—Mrs. W. Cameron, Stewart, B. C.
1896—Miss Ella Cotton—Mrs. W. M. Russell, White Rock.
1897—Miss Maggie Gifford—Mrs. Gowan Macgowan, Essondale.
1898—Miss Ethel Ross—Mrs. Horace Dorer, New Westminster.
1899—Miss Alvina Munn, New Westminster.
1900—Miss Alexie Ewen—Mrs. Levy Gilbert, Vancouver.
1901—Miss Aldyn Hendry—Mrs. E. W. Hamber, Vancouver.
1902—Miss Mollie Fletcher—Mrs. H. P. Latham, New Westminster.
1903—Miss Winnie Keary—Mrs. Roy English, Vancouver.
1904—Miss Manuella Briggs, New Westminster.
1905—Miss Alice Macnamara (deceased).
1906—Miss Myrtle Starrett, Balfour, B. C.
1907—Miss Annie Tidy—Mrs. S. Herring, Calgary.
1908—Miss Kathleen Dashwood-Jones, New Westminster.
1909—Miss Helen Hale, New Westminster.
1910—Miss Mary Keary, New Westminster.
1911—Miss Kathleen Welsh, New Westminster.



1. EDGAR STRIDE, photographs.
2. MISS ASHBOURNE, Maypole and folk dancing.
3. F. L. KERR, moving pictures
4. P. R. PEELE, special features.
5. C. J. LOAT, autos.
6. R. P. DAY, Boy Scouts
7. A. W. DECKER, sports.
8. A. W. DAWE, Maypoles.

Other members of the committee are:

ALD. R. FENTON, decorations.
JOHN C. DIGBY, illuminations.
A. H. TAYLOR, High School Cadets
KEITH MACGOWAN, parade
F. T. C. WICKETT, massed children's choir
VIC. E. ANDREW, publicity

1912 Miss Annie Staton, New Westminster.
1913 Miss Jean McPhail, McLeod, Alta.
1914 Miss Eva Atkinson, New Westminster.
1915 Miss Bessie Henderson, New Westminster.
1916 Miss Evelyn Dowe, New Westminster.
1917 Miss Louise Cunningham, New Westminster.
1918 Miss Loretta Murphy, New Westminster.
1919 Miss Eveline Brooks, New Westminster.
1920 Miss Eva Owen MacMaster (Queen-elect).

1900-1920 Maids of Honour

Owing to the great fire of 1898, which swept the city, the files of the British Columbian were destroyed. Therefore it is impossible to give a complete list of those who have attended the various May Queens. The list dating from 1900 is as follows:

1900—Miss Tina Mowbray, Miss Ada Livingstone.
1901—Miss Julia Gifford, Miss Edith Johnston.
1902—Miss Violet Latham, Miss Marjorie Gordon.
1903—Miss Lindsay, Miss Dot Bourne, Miss McDonald, Miss Heaton.
1904—Miss Helen Rand, Miss Katie Muir.
1905—Miss Gladys Corrigan, Miss Alma Lewis.
1906—Miss Madeline Griffin, Miss Lillian Vansone.
1907—Miss Belle Hood, Miss Dorothy Reichenbach.
1908—Miss Naomi Rolph, Miss Ruby Fletcher.
1909—Miss Atherton, Miss Runcie.
1910—Miss Noel Armstrong, Miss Mary Malins.
1911—Miss Rae Welsh, Miss Clara Martin.
1912—Miss Alice Bradshaw, Miss Doreen Thomas.
1913—Miss Eva Mosdell, Miss Kathleen Drew.
1914—Miss Edna Johnston, Miss Donna Mackay.
1915—Miss Alva Tokley, Miss Constance Gifford.
1916—Miss Louise Cunningham, Miss Lucy Reichenbach, Miss E. Peck.
1917—Miss Doris Wrigglesworth, Miss Garnet Williams.
1918—Miss Reneth Munday, Miss Dorothy Menton.
1919—Miss Doris McGregor, Miss Katherine Reid.
1920—Miss Lilloet Green, Miss Millicent Meehan.

HISTORY OF THE MAY DAY

(By T. WEIDEMAN)

IT was in 1870, just half a century ago, that the then residents of New Westminster, few in number as compared with the present population, decided to inaugurate a May Day Celebration in the Royal City, and it is pleasing to note that for fifty years this pretty and quaint fete has been continued.

The Hyack Fire Brigade were the members of the community who initiated May Day here; the first May Queen, Miss Nellie McColl, who afterwards became Mrs. E. S. Scoular, and whose death occurred two years ago had the honor of being Westminster's first May Queen.

Enthroned upon the hand pump fire engine, which, with the old hand reel of hose, constituted New Westminster's fire fighting apparatus, Queen McColl presided over the festivities of her loyal subjects of 1870.

The first May Pole was erected at Sapperton, on the site of the Old Government House, and this pole with but five streamers was sufficient to accommodate the small number of children taking part in those days, in what has ever been the main feature of every May Day celebration.

For a number of years the Hyacks carried on these May Day celebrations and at one time it was feared that this time honored custom would be discontinued.

It was then that the City Band, organized in the early days, took an active part and it is to their loyal support and untiring efforts that the Royal City's proud distinction of fifty years of May Days is due.

Some years the festivities were held in Louise Gardens, at other times it was staged in Alice Gardens. Then for a few years Townsend's Field was the venue until Queen's Park was available. One year the parade, instead of wending its way up Columbia street, proceeded as a miniature water pageant by barge and steamer via the mighty Fraser River. In latter years the scene of May Day festivities was transferred to Queen's Park where the present banner celebration is being held.

In 1883, the warden of the Penitentiary refused the May Day committee permission to hold the annual celebration on Government House grounds, contending that it would have a ba effect on the convicts.

Strong editorials were written in the local press over this contention at the time and many meetings with government officials were held. The Hon. Mr. Trutch however, upheld the warden and refused to give his consent to the committee. His Lordship, the Bishop of New Westminster, thereupon generously offered the use of his grounds, and after ten days' delay, the May Queen was crowned and her loyal subjects made merry.

In the early days the May Day dance was held in the Drill shed, and while probably not as imposing a function as the present May Day dances as staged in the splendid Arena at Queen's Park, were every bit as enjoyable.

One feature of the Royal City's May Day is still the same, happily, the

occasion is a community event, purely and simply, all classes take part in, and enjoy it.

The largest turn out of uniformed men in a May Day procession was that of 1916, when two full battalions, each eleven hundred men strong, were present.

By a pleasing coincidence, and very appropriate as well, J. J. Johnston, who first saw the light of day in the Royal City, half a century ago, when May Day was first instituted, is this year, Mayor of the city, and also, on this Golden Anniversary, besides filling the highest civic position, is Master of Ceremonies.

As stated before, the Hyack Fire Brigade started May Day. Today New Westminster has one of the finest up-to-date fire departmentt for a city of its size, on the North American continent, and this year Fire Chief Watson, head of this modern department, and for thirty years, associated with the fire fighting force of the city, is chairman of the May Day Committee.

The children of early days are the citizens of today, and these citizens on this day of days, will be children again.

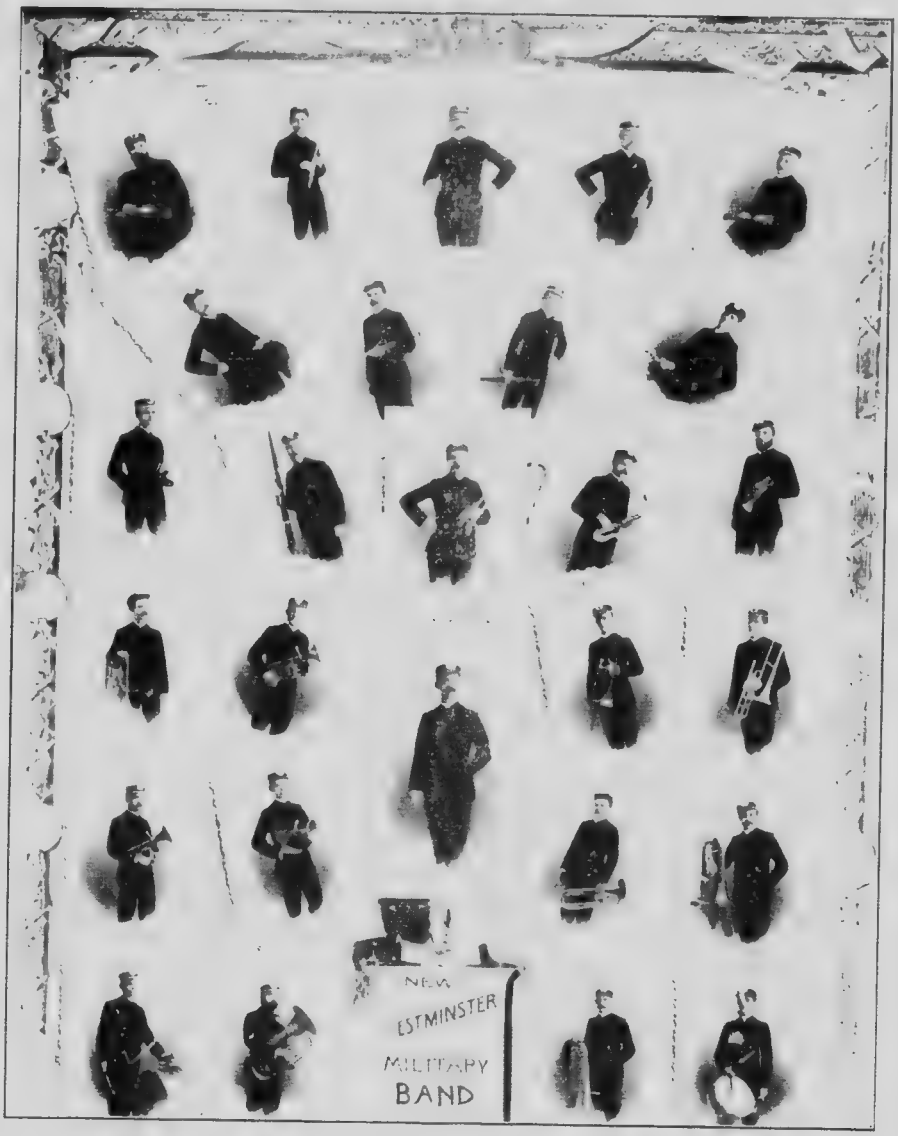
The children of today will be the citizens of the future and they will see, when they reach manhood and womanhood, that the May Day celebrations will continue through the years to come, for never are men and women in this glorious Empire too old to be children for one day in the year, at least.

And even the confirmed bachelor enjoys the frollicks and happy laughter of the children. Therefore, will May Day live forever in the Royal City.

Among the little boys so joyously taking part in the days' festivities, is a future Mayor of the city, a leading business man or two, perchance several prominent statesmen, etc., while yonder little girl in the arms of her fond mother, no doubt wondering, as she looks over the happy scene, what it is all about, may be a future May Queen. What changes may take place within the next fifty years, no one can forecast, but it is safe to say that in 1970, in the Royal City the May Day Centenial, commemmorating one hundred years of May Days, will be staged.

Hark, their notes the hautboys swell
  Breathing love and breathing joy;
Hark, the trumpets pierce the sky,
  Louder than old Triton's shell,
To proclaim our lady nigh;
  And amid the sunny air,
Echo, too, will have her share,
  Singing: "Glory to the Queen."

—From "The May Queen."



Reading from left to right. Hamilton McKee, F. T. Hill, Jack Patterson, John Patterson, R. Wray, W. Ransome, Henry Morey, S. G. Peele, C. A. Campbell, George Wintemute, Prof. Staton, E. F. Darcy, W. H. Falding, George Turnbull, Howard Welsh, H. G. Peele, C. H. Watson, W. B. Jackson, George Cunningham, Jr., James Grieg, C. A. Welsh, Ned Dyson, John McMurphy, C. D. Peele, George B. McClellan, Jack Working, Duke Ellard.

The Hyack Fire Brigade

"Ever, aye, ready.
We work for all.
We strive to save."

THIS was the motto of the old Hyack Fire Brigade which was organized in 1861 in honour of a visit paid to the city by Governor Seymour, the motto having a conspicious position in the old fire hall on Columbia, now the site of the City Hall. It was the Hyacks, in company with the Royal Engineers, who were instrumental in staging New Westminster's first May Day in 1870. The late Mr. F. J. Richards was the first engineer of the Hyack fire brigade, his photograph now occupying a prominent position in the art gallery at No. 1 Firehall.

It was the Hyacks—the word being the Chinook for "hurry up"—who were chiefly instrumental in staging the first May Day celebration in New Westminster, the May Queen, Miss Helen McColl, riding in state on top of the fire wagon used way back in 1870. In 1893, the Hyacks having gone out of existance as a fire fighting organization, there was danger of the May Day festival falling through on account of lack of interest but thanks to the offer of the City Band, the ceremony was continued without a break.

Although the Hyacks went out of existance in 1891 when the city organized a paid department, memories of the old brigade are still retained in New Westminster through what is known as the Ancient and Honorable Hyack Anvil Battery, under the command of ex-Mayor Thos. Ovens. The battery was first organized in 1872, when, following the disuse of the cannon used to fire the annual Royal Salute on May 24, in honour of Queen Victoria, Mr. Ovens utilized an old country custom of firing powder placed between two anvils. From that year to the present, Victoria Day has been celebrated in the Royal City by the firing of this battery. Ex-Mayor Ovens is the sole survivor of the original battery, the other members having passed over the great divide and their places taken by the younger generation, mostly descendants of original members.

FIRST MAY DAY CELEBRATION, 1870

A photograph showing the first May Day celebration held in the Royal City of New Westminster, then known as Queensborough. The event took place on May 7, 1870 and was held on the only cleared patch of ground in the city on a site now taken up by the Dominion building in Sapperton

MAY DAY, 1870

EXTRACT FROM THE MAINLAND GUARDIAN, APRIL 27, 1870.

MAY DAY. Our citizens, as will be seen from the advertisement, have arranged to celebrate May Day, and from what we learn, will provide entertainment after the true old English style for old and young. In a case like this we go in for confederation, as only that will produce the joyous influence of the holiday. Under the spell of bright eyes and hearty laughter union may follow. Let everybody be there.

ADVERTISEMENT OF FIRST MAY DAY.
(From The Mainland Guardian, April 27, 1870.)

MAY DAY.

"Everybody and his wife and faminly are invited to the Cricket Ground on Monday, the 2nd of May, to celebrate May Day.

Luncheon will be provided for all.

All kinds of Games; Music and Dancing on the green, etc., etc.

The sports will commence at 12 o'clock."

FROM THE MAINLAND GUARDIAN, MAY 4, 1870.

MAY DAY DECORATIONS.—It is very pleasant to see our Citizens joining so heartily in the task of preparing the decorations for the celebration of this universal fete, as they were on Saturday. Old and young, great and small, assembled at the Cricket Ground to assist in erecting the booths formed of green boughs; the Marquee, tent, flag-staff and May Pole, which now give that beautifully situated piece of ground an appearance worthy of the olden time. The May Pole is charmingly decorated with the wild flowering currant, and bears a crown of flowers at the top, surmounted by the cross of St. George. This and the rustic booths were designed and erected under the superintendence of Mr. J. T. Scott, to whom they do infinite credit. A splendid flag-staff and a number of tall poles bearing flags have also been set up, which give quite a gay appearance to the scene. The Hyacks have not been idle; their fine machine is decorated as gaily as a bride prepared for her nuptials; this last was accomplished by Mr. Hugh Waters, who has performed his task in a manner worthy of all praise. The arrangements have been all carried out to an extent fully up to the most sanguine

expectations, and should the weather prove favorable, a happy day of enjoyment will be the result.

May 4, 1870.

May Day.—Owing to the inclemency of the weather, the May Day celebration was postponed till today, when if the clerk of the weather is in good humor and Old Sol deigns to preside on the occasion, our citizens, old and young, will have a good time.

May 7, 1870.

May Day.—Old Sol got up on Wednesday morning, rather hazily, as if he had a "drop in his eye" but as Dick Swiveller would say, the "old man was agreeable," and looked down with a sort of quiet smile till the amusements of the day were over. At an early hour the tocsin sounded from the Hyack tower, and the City and suburbs were awakened to a state of busy preparation. In due course the Hyacks began to assemble resplendent in red shirts, black pants, caps and belts; their band meanwhile enlivening the precincts of the Hall with merry strains. About noon the lovely damsel who had been "chosen by the people for a Queen," made her appearance, and was quickly enthroned on the Hyack machine, the "Fire King," amidst wreaths of ribbons and flowers, looking a very "Faerie Queene." The band then took the lead, and the Hyacks, under the superintendence of Capt. Fisher and Chief Engineer Johnston, formed in marching order, and the procession started for the cricket ground; the sides of the road being lined with people, old and young, wending their way to the same point. When the procession had arrived on the ground, the Hyacks encircled the May Pole. A nicely decorated throne had been erected for the "Queen," and in a short time was occupied by that august lady; the attendant maids of honor were placed in two rows. The vast assemblage having formed a wide circle round this centre of attraction, W. J. Armstrong, Esq., J. P., President of the Municipal Council, then addressed a short speech to Her Majesty, explanatory to the future acts of her reign. Meanwhile a forlorn-looking object, who was stated to be the "oldest bachelor" present, was made to place the crown on the fair young head, that waited to receive it. The unfortunate man muttered some words which our reporter did not think worth while to take note of; but we thought it the refinement of cruelty to bring the poor fellow into the midst of such a group of lovely young creatures, who must have made his miserable condition more glaringly apparent to all. We hope, for the sake of humanity, that some kindly disposed young lady will usher him into matrimonial bliss ere another May Queen ascends the throne. The ceremony of the coronation being over, the band appropriately struck up, "My Love Is But a Lassie Yet," and a pretty dance around the May Pole ensued; each maid of honor accompanied by a "gladsome swain" holding a piece of blue, red, or white ribbon attached to the May Pole, in her hand. The whole affair was beautifully arranged by Mr. J. T. Scott, under whose special guidance this portion of the amusements rested; and the scene, novel in its character

will long be remembered by our citizens. As our report will become a record, we shall here append the names of the young ladies who formed the royal court:

The May Queen, Miss Helen McColl; Maids of Honor, the Misses M. Scott, S. Irving, F. Woods, N. Dickenson, M. A. Edwards, M. M. Lee, M Johnston, S. Burr, M. Morey, M. Burr, — Black, — Murray, — Bonson, — DeBeck, — Walsh, — Armstrong, — Webster, J. Harvey, — Musselwhite.

(The young ladies were, at the close of the amusements, each decorated with the order of the "Gold Star," attached to a blue ribbon, by Capt. Fisher, of the Hyacks.)

After this, the assemblage proceeded to engage in the various sports in different portions of the extensive grounds. The little ladies and gentlemen of tender years formed a tremendous circle by joining hands and playing kiss in the ring; the more matured young ladies and gentlemen sought the delights of the "mazy dance."

Dr. Black played the part of the traditional "Bill Stiggins," and dealt out "three sticks for a bit" with all the drollery imaginable. He wore an excellent imitation of a celebrated editorial white castor, which elicited shouts of laughter. Although the players were not always successful in knocking off the prizes from the sticks the funds of the committee of management received a very handsome addition from this source.

Long tables were ranged beneath the shade of the rustic booths where the substantials were profusely spread and where everybody and his wife and family regaled themselves free of charge. A copious supply of milk and cakes was provided for the juveniles, and viands in every form of roast and boiled, for the elders, in endless supply, with proper accompaniments; to all of which ample justice was done.

During the afternoon a party of gay maskers (four ladies and four gentlemen) came upon the ground, and after promenading through the midst of the throng, danced a quadrille with great eclat. They were received with a perfect shout of laughter, and the peculiar appearance of the "ladies" caused excessive merriment. The masquers were very well got up and did much to increase the enjoyment of the day.

Mr. J. T. Scott sent off several of his beautiful balloons; only one however, travelling to any great distance, owing to the wind being a little too strong.

We have often participated in similar days, but certainly never "assisted" at one where the enjoyment was more universal or more completely without alloy. For this happy result we are indebted to the indefatigueable exertions of Hon. A. T. Bushby and Messrs. W. J. Armstrong, W. Fisher, J. T. Scott, Dr. Black, Hugh Waters, W. Johnston, and a number of other gentlemen, who never relaxed during the whole of the day in creating and stimulating the amusements. The gentlemen composing the fine band of Hyacks, deserve great credit for their untiring exertions. From morning till the close of the day, they could be heard discoursing sweet music "grave and gay" furnishing the great source of much of the day's happiness.

The 1919 May Queen Party.

May Queen Eveline Brooks, ex-Queen Loretta Murphy with their Maids of honor. Reading from left to right are: Miss Katherine Reid, Miss Doris McGregor Queen Eveline Brooks, ex-Queen Loretta Murphy, Miss Reneth [illegible]day and Miss Dorothy Menten.

Scene at the 1906 May Day Ceremony.

The picture shows Miss Myrtle Starrett, May Queen, 1906, and the late Miss Alice Macnamara, May Queen 1905. On the extreme left is to be noticed the late Colonel John T. Scott, who was connected with the first ceremony on May 7, 1870.

To the May Queen, 1920

We crown thee Queen of May,
Fair Evva, on this day,
With blossoms deck thy throne,
And hail thee Queen alone.
Long life, sweet Majesty,
Blest may you ever be,
And may thy people too,
Be blest in loving you.

See how we raise our voice,
Declaring thee our choice,
Fair as the flowers of May,
Queen of our land today.
Sweet Royal City Queen,
No fairer yet has been.
Long live the Queen. All hail,
With thee, good shall prevail.

By right that is divine,
Maid of the royal line',
Thou comest to thy throne,
To serve us as thine own,
O' may thy service be
Full, sweet and sisterly,
The crown is sure that stands
Upheld by loving hands.

This is our Jubilee,
Thro' fifty years we see
Fair maids ascend the throne,
Which is today thine own.
Each queen has held her sway
To brighten life's hard way.
E'en as God's flowers of May
Gladden the earth today.

So hold thy way, fair Maid,
Fearless and undismay'd,
With flowers we deck thy throne,
Th' rosebuds are thine own.
Thro' pearls, the silver notes
Of thy fond message floats,
And low we bend the knee
To May's sweet Majesty.

—JUSTIN WILSON.

Columbian Co., New Westminster.